

The Water Spout

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Drinking Water

Volume XXXI *"SAFE DRINKING WATER IS WHAT WE SPOUT ABOUT"* September, 2019

New Public Water Supply Program Webpage Location

By Michael Wentink; Field Services and Training

Had a difficult time locating Public Water Supply Program information and forms to complete?

Understandable - Earlier this year, the Nebraska Public Water Supply Program webpage made a transition from the Department of Health and Human Services website to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) website. To add more intrigue to this time period of change, not only did the Program webpage location move but, as of July 1, the NDEQ name also changed. The Agency is now called the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), following merger of the Nebraska Department of Energy and NDEQ.

The Public Water Supply Program webpage is located at the following address:

<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>.

The webpage does have a new look in format and will likely improve in time. It is a work in progress.

As a Reminder

The DHHS Drinking Water Program physical mailing address is:

**Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Drinking Water
1200 N Street, Suite 400
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922**

Water Operator License Wallet Cards

As established policy during the last couple of years, the Nebraska DHHS Licensure Unit will not mail wallet cards to operators following initial issuance, or subsequent renewal, of their water operator licenses. License holders can go to the Nebraska DHHS license search webpage and generate a license wallet card. Go to:

<http://www.nebraska.gov/LISearch/search.cgi>.

Select "Individual Search," then type the information requested; usually the last name, license number and selection of "water operator" in the profession dropdown box is sufficient. Click on "Search Individuals." Click on your name and the page with the license details will appear. A green button to generate a wallet card will be located at both the top and bottom of that page. Click on either button and print the wallet card.

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Editor: Michael Wentink

The Water Spout is published for public water systems and their operators by the Nebraska DHHS Division of Drinking Water.
Website address:

<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>

Main phone number: (402) 471-2541
24-hour Emergency Phone: (402) 499-6922

REGULATORY UPDATE

New Public Water Supply Program Personnel

By Michael Wentink; Field Services and Training

There are some new faces in the Drinking Water Program. People come and go. They retire, leave for “greener pastures”, promoted to a different position, etc. With those “exits,” enter new personnel. Recent entries into the Public Water Supply Program are the following individuals.

Taylor Benzel — Program Specialist in the Monitoring and Compliance Section

Jessica Johnson — Program Specialist in the Monitoring and Compliance Section

Regan Ohlman — Staff Assistant in the Field Services and Training Section

Tobie Abel — Staff Assistant in the Engineering Section

All are well qualified and we wish them the best in their new positions.

Nebraska is not an Island

By Michael Wentink; Field Services and Training

Problems and issues relative to drinking water occur in many places - Nebraska is not an island. It is helpful to put issues, both negative and positive, into perspective.

Below are some selected drinking water issues from around the country, in effort to fulfill that philosophy.

Lead Treatment Not Working

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/epa-determines-newark-s-lead-filters-not-working-city-distributes-bottled-water-0001>

Overuse of Ground Water

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/houston-s-b-treatment-plant-to-be-among-nation-s-largest-0001>

The PFAS Concern

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/ewg-pfas-chemicals-must-be-regulated-as-a-class-not-one-by-one-0001>

Another Flint Michigan Culprit

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/former-michigan-official-admits-ignored-health-problems-flint-0001>

PFOAs and PFOS

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/drinking-water-guidelines-in-the-u-s-vary-widely-from-state-to-state-0001>

California is Not All Sunshine

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/21/us/california-central-valley-tainted-water.html>

It's Easy to Make Money in America

<https://www.themonitor.com/2019/03/27/feds-detail-multi-million-dollar-water-plant-bribery-scheme-entangling-weslaco-officials/>

That is Why Audits are Performed

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/vegas-utility-worker-indicted-in-m-office-supply-scheme-0001>

Title 179

Latest Revision Dates of Regulations

NAC

2-001	November 15, 2003
2-002	March 22, 2016
2-015	September 22, 1999
3	March 22, 2016
4	March 22, 2016
5	December 22, 2012
6	March 22, 2016
7	April 4, 2010
8	March 22, 2016
9	March 22, 2004
10	June 21, 2011
11	November 15, 2003
12	December 22, 2012
13	March 22, 2016
14	March 22, 2016
16	March 22, 2016
17	November 13, 2005
18	November 15, 2003
19	November 13, 2005
21	March 22, 2004
22	March 22, 2004
23	June 11, 2013
24	June 11, 2013
25	June 11, 2013
26	March 22, 2016

These regulations can be viewed at:

<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>

Water Operator Grades I - IV and VI Continuing Education – 2019

Please contact the appropriate organization at the phone number provided for further information regarding these scheduled training activities.

For additional upcoming training events, visit <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>.

			HOURS AVAILABLE FOR GRADE						
DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC(S)	I	II	III	IV	VI	CONTACT	PHONE
Sept. 25-26	Gering	Water	10	10	10	10	5	NeRWA	402-443-5216
Sept. 25-26	Omaha	Water	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	NEHA	402-441-6520
October 1	Fremont	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
October 2	Plattsmouth	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
October 3	Columbus	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	CCC	877-222-0780
October 3	Seward	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
October 8	Bellevue	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	E. NE ABPA	402-570-6690
October 17	McCook	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
October 17	Omaha	Backflow	0	0	0	0	5	TBR	888-305-5292
October 22	So. Sioux City	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
October 23	Gretna	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	CCC	877-222-0780
October 23	Kearney	Fluoridation	5	5	5	5	0	DHHS DPH	402-471-0523
October 24	O'Neill	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
October 24	Tecumseh	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
November 5	Minden	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
November 5	Kearney	Water	6	6	6	6	0	AWWA	402-441-1622
Nov. 6-7	Kearney	Water	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	3.5	AWWA	402-880-0321
November 13	Wahoo	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 3	Pawnee City	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 3	Grand Island	Water	3	3	3	3	0	DHHS DPH	402-471-0523
December 10	Mitchell	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 10	Grand Island	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
December 11	Lincoln	Water	5	5	5	5	0	LoNM/AWWA	402-476-2829
December 11	Ogallala	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 12	Cambridge	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 12	Wahoo	Water	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 12	Grand Island	Backflow	0	0	0	0	5	TBR	888-305-5292
December 18	Wahoo	Backflow	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	NeRWA	402-443-5216
December 19	Gretna	Backflow	5	5	5	5	5	MAP	402-389-0900

TBA – Hours not assigned at time of printing

TBR—Total Backflow Resources, Salix Iowa

NeRWA – Nebraska Rural Water Association, Wahoo

LoNM – League of Nebraska Municipalities, Lincoln

AWWA – Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

CCC – Central Community College, Grand Island (When calling the 877 number, select extension #7527, or call 308 - 398 -7527.)

NEHA - National Environmental Health Association

DHHS – Nebraska Department of Health and Human

Services, Division of Public Health

E. NE ABPA – Eastern Nebraska Chapter of Region 12 American Backflow Prevention Association

MAP Midwest Assistance Program

RTCR MCL VIOLATIONS

TC+ = Total coliform-positive or present; **TC-** = Total coliform-negative or absent

EC+ = *E. coli*-positive or present; **EC-** = *E. coli*-negative or absent

If Routine Sample Is	And	Any Repeat Sample Is:	Action: What do your sample results mean?	Violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC-	The presence of total coliform bacteria in both the original routine sample and in the follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and the water may not be safe to use. 1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment. The Department will tell the system which type of assessment is required.	No MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the system's water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a Public Notice (PN) within 24 hours. 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*
TC+ EC-	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of total coliform bacteria in the original routine sample suggests there could be a problem, and because repeat samples were not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use. 1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment.	No MCL violation
TC+ EC+	&	TC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the water is an indicator of fecal contamination and the water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a PN within 24 hours. 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*
TC+ EC+	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in the water is an indicator of fecal contamination and the water may not be safe to use. The Department will consult with the system. 1. Issue a PN within 24 hours 2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days.	E. coli MCL violation*

NOTE:

* A system is required to provide Tier 1 public notice within 24 hours of the Department's notification and consultation in response to an *E. coli* MCL violation. For more information, visit our website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/drinkingwater> or contact Elizabeth Esseks at 402-471-1010.

Water Operator Courses - 2019

Register Early!

**Registration required prior to the class.
(Seating is limited)**

Call DHHS at (402) 471-0523.

The course registration form for grades I – IV
water operator training courses is available at
<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>

PWS Regulation Review

Encouraged for Grade IV Scheduled Course Attendees
**Open to all; 3 hours of continuing education available
for water operator grades I – IV.**

Begins at 1:00 P.M. on the afternoon prior to the
scheduled two-day Grade IV course

November 13	(New)	Ashland
December 3		Grand Island

Grade IV

*Cost is \$80.00 for the class and \$180.00 for the two
textbooks if needed.*

November 14 - 15	Ashland
December 4 - 5	Grand Island

Grade III

*Cost is \$200.00 for the class and \$180.00 for the two
textbooks if needed.*

October 7 - 11	Beatrice
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Grade I & II

*Cost is \$200.00 for the class and \$139.00 for the
two textbooks if needed.*

Next courses will be conducted in 2020.

Grade VI Training Courses

Note – To obtain additional information on the **Grade VI** (backflow) courses below, please contact the identified training provider.

October 7 - October 11 (Class is Full) Wahoo

Contact the Nebraska Rural Water Association at
(800) 842-8039 or (402) 443-5216.

Note: You may also register for future NeRWA classes at
<http://www.nerwa.org/trainc.htm>.

October 14 - October 18 Omaha

Contact Total Backflow Resources at (888) 305-5292
or (712) 946-1012.

Note: You may also register for future TBR classes at
<http://www.totalbackflow.com/agenda.html>.

December 9 - December 13 Grand Island

Contact Total Backflow Resources at (888) 305-5292
or (712) 946-1012.

Note: You may also register for future TBR classes at
<http://www.totalbackflow.com/agenda.html>.

2019 Training Calendar and Other Tidbits

The 2019 Coalition Training Calendar is posted on
the Nebraska Public Water Supply Program webpage.
As typical for each year, training providers offer many
continuing education events for 2019 in many locations
across the State. Every year there are ample
opportunities to obtain the continuing education hours
needed for renewal of a water operator license.

2019 is a renewal year. Continuing education hours
are prorated for individuals issued an initial Grades I -
IV & VI water operator license in 2018 or 2019. If the
initial license was issued in 2018, at least five (5) hours
of continuing education is required for the first renewal.
If the initial license was issued in 2019, then continuing
education is waived for the first renewal. All other
licensed water operators require at least ten (10) hours
of continuing education for renewal.

The credential holder is required by law and
regulation to maintain a record of his / her continuing
education. Public Water Supply Program does maintain
a record of continuing education with the expressed
purpose of lessening the paperwork submittal that
otherwise might be required at renewal time.

The notice to renew your water operator license will
be mailed out sometime in October. It will be mailed to
the last address the DHHS Licensure Unit has on
record for the license holder. If you have moved or
otherwise changed address since the last renewal,
please contact the DHHS Licensure Unit and update
your mailing address if necessary.

Instructions on how to proceed with renewal of your
water operator license will be on the notice that is
mailed to you. Please read the instructions as there are
a couple of options for the renewal process.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health Drinking Water Program

